

**Government Procurement Connections**  
**611 Walker Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor - Houston, Texas 77002**  
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**Federal stimulus money is already available to Texans and more is on the way. details were given at the Government Procurement Connections kickoff hosted by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.**

There is good news for Texans when it comes to the Economic Recovery Act such as \$2.8 billion for education, which includes \$3 billion for Houston-area schools and \$158 million for the Houston Independent School District; \$2.5 billion for government and business to expand broadband communications in rural Texas; \$2.8 billion for transportation. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee will discuss some of the highlights during the Government Procurement Connections (GPC) press conference on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Houston City Hall Rotunda at 2pm.

"As a Representative of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I look forward to working with members in Washington and the GPC to ensure that Houston businesses and residents receive the tools they need to increase contracting opportunities and reverse the high rates of job loss leaving many families helpless in our region. Indeed, I am fighting for Texas to receive the \$555 million from the Economic Stimulus funds," said Congresswoman Jackson Lee.

District Director, Mr. Manuel Gonzalez for the United States Small Business Administration "SBA" will discuss **The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009** that authorizes the SBA to guarantee up to **90 percent** of a 7(a) loan except for SBA Express. **The SBA's credit programs and the SBA's guaranteed Surety bonds Program will be injected with \$730 million dollars in funding.**

The premiere government contracting event of the year for small, minority, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses will take place on April 22 and April 23 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. This conference provides an essential forum for government agencies, corporations and small businesses to discuss potential business relationships. Participants at Government Procurement Connections (GPC) will have the opportunity to meet with more than 200 City, County, State and Federal representatives involved in purchasing, construction, and professional services contracting.

During the awards luncheon, a group of panelists representing the City of Houston, Texas Department of Transportation, Port of Houston, and other leading agencies will answer questions regarding the stimulus package and other business opportunities. Velma Laws, Director of the City of Houston's Affirmation Action Department says, "this is a unique and exciting time for Houston's small and MWDBE community. The Economic Stimulus Package is bringing millions of dollars in contracts and grants to our area. GPC is an excellent venue for business owners to learn about these opportunities from a broad spectrum of agency representatives."

For business owners, it's about making a strategic plan and having the courage and commitment to follow through with the certification information, upcoming bid

opportunities, prime contractor information and networking opportunities. Helen Callier, President of Bradlink LLC was successful in learning about project opportunities, positioning her firm, and establishing relationships through the Government Procurement Connections Conference (GPC), City of Houston Proposal and Prebid Meetings, and the Houston Airport Business Opportunity Conference. Callier says, "our success in securing both prime and consultant project work with the Houston Airport System and the City of Houston is based on building sustainable partnerships by providing a key service, filling a need, and assisting in meeting contract participation goals with our MWDBE certification."

For Sahnya Shulterbrandt who heads Marketing and Business Development for the website- [TexasOnTheGo.com](http://TexasOnTheGo.com), she says "GPC is a shortcut to navigate the maze of Government Procurement. You have the opportunity to be face to face with decision makers and present your products and service directly, without an intermediary. They will answer your questions and help you dot the "I"s and cross the "T"s about you business and your further opportunities with them."

**A press conference to highlight the Economic Recovery Act and the Government Procurement Connections was held on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Houston City Hall Rotunda downtown-901 Bagby Street.**

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